Pascal Paulus

As a matter of perspective

Planet Earth, June 2016

2023

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Foreword

Simple

There is much talking about time capsules. To write on paper short notices, and hold them for different years. Simple, isn't it?

Planet Earth

What do we really know of what is happening on our planet. Three short notices on three different spots. Can we put things in perspective?

Exercice

During one month of the year 2016, I collected three topics a day, 15 days. Seven years later I found the notes in a forgotten file on my computer. It is eye-opening how real occurrences implied on real people rapidly really forgotten.

Why not?

It takes only a very short time to read through this little notes. Consider you invited. Reflecting on them can take longer. To me it took. Perhaps you will choose your month to register three little notes a day. And show them some years later.

Planet earth today, 07/05/2023

Little bits of thoughts

Help me

occurrence #1.

Portugal.

She was for the first time in that public hospital, assisting a friend when suddenly she self had a hart attack in the consultation room. She was immediately as well assisted as her friend, without complications.

occurrence #2

Portugal.

It is the fourth time he is in that private hospital always the same one. He needs a not previewed urgent intervention. The doctor informs payment has to be made before the intervention.

occurrence #3

Yemen and "*the forgotten civil war"* as said on Belgian TV.

Hospitals are attacked. Logic? Killing directly medical staff, indirectly all wounded enemies are exterminated.

Planet Earth today, 31/05/2016

Children

somewhere in Lisbon

8 and 9 year old children present their investigation to colleagues, parents and teachers: "*We made a work about this African country, because we have a colleague in the classroom who comes from there.*" The boy is part of the group and brought in privileged information not one school text book refers to.

somewhere in South Sudan

8 to 11 year old children are trapped in a by the world forgotten civil war. In one of the biggest refugee camps, under heavy rain, they collect mud to model clay objects. No text book refers to it.

somewhere on television

Commercials insist in persuading parents to buy all kind of things for their children on the occasion of universal children's day, celebrated today in a large number of UNO-member States.
We see it whole day long on television…

Planet Earth today, 01/06/2016

Survival

2015. Stephen Hawking,

… in a remarkable interview on flemish TV, speaks about his long survival despite ALS. He claims: *"I'm not afraid of death, but I am in no hurry to die*". Further, he explains that, when observing the earth from the point of view of cosmology, one sees just one planet in space, whereon, among animals, one observe just one human race. The whole planet, with all the life on it, is just one unit in universal time and space. He explains he is part of this unity, in a certain moment in time.

2016. Frans de Waal,

… shows in "*Are we smart enough to know how smart animals are?*" how a magpie observes a nut floating in a cup of water. As the bird can't reach the nut, it starts to throw rhinestones in the cup until the water overflows being then able to pick out the nut. The author suggests evolutionary cognition as a hypothesis to understand animal learning, including human race, giving origin to local cultures. Cultural diversity is part of surviving.

2016. Winter and spring on the Mediterranean.

Refugees continue to try to reach Europe, despite the death toll. An anonymous young boy, rescued and send back to Africa, claims: "*I'm not afraid to try again. I already ran from death, I have nothing to loose.*"

Planet Earth today, 02/06/2016

Interactions

Lisbon, today

"*I learned that different visions about an argument makes a team project more complete.*" Observation of a 11 year old boy evaluating, at the end of the first year, the introduction of project oriented activities in his classroom.

Gent, today

The flemish artist and humorist Kamagurka analyses classic flemish painters with Syrian refugees, in the local museum. Hate and torture are compared, when looking at religious fanaticism making all dialogue impossible, grounded on history and personal experiences.

UNO, somewhere in the future…

Sustainable Development Goal 1.5 "*By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters*".

Between interaction and intention, Planet Earth today, 03/06/2016

Children taking up the world

Lisbon, Portugal

6 year old children present their investigation to colleagues and parents. They studied "*the life of policemen*". Therefore they interviewed a policemen. Most important questions, adults do not ask are: "*What do policemen eat?*", "*Where do policemen sleep?*", "*Do policemen have children?*".

West Coast, USA

Young children challenge their teacher to build a real car. This is how Mindrive project started building electrical cars.

Refugee Centre, lot's of places in the world

Some of the young children living in refugee centres due to adult madness, invest their youth in learning how to live with their memories as garbage collectors or child soldiers.

Planet Earth today, 04/06/2016

The market is free

Lisbon

Near to 600 euros. This minimum wage is contested by part of the parliament and international observers as to expensive. Young graduated people continue to live in the home of their parents.

Luanda

He is musician and lives in a little “house” in the middle of one of the largest garbage fields of the region. No wages nor parents house is in sight.

Italian coast

They arrived, rescued by the Italian coast police, and were send to a refugee camp. With no money left as all their posses were spent to pay a people smuggler for a precarious see crossing.

regulation of the free market, Planet Earth today, 06/06/2016

Culture gained, culture lost.

Lisbon, east side

During an exhibition eight 6-year old children set up, they show and explain to their parents and friends, 21 books they explored together. They tell stories, they show links they found between books and authors, they talk about a chat with one of the authors. They made little films with their grandparents, about story-telling. Cultural development, one year of work.

Lisbon, west side

A group of subject teachers reflect about they decision of switching from teaching processes based on instruction towards learning processes of the whole education community based on cooperation It is a 3 year going on cultural and educational development project.

East and west, north and south

Ignorant adults destroy schools, hospitals, books, museums, cultural manifestations or artefacts, enhancing the arrogance of ignorance. Cultural destruction, in a minimum of time.

Planet Earth still today, 07/06/2016

It was written in the stars...

Lisbon, march 2016

At school, a girl 11 years old decides to join information subordinate to the question "*what is the meaning of life*" she was struggling with. She presents to her classmates and teachers a well documented piece of work, where even she handles fears about unexplained phenomena and the way people react. She explores, as she can, and with the words of an eleven years old girl, science, pseudoscience, religion and mythology.

TV-documentary, may 2016

With a mix of images, testimonies of distant observers and personal interpretations of story telling in both sacred and profane texts, demons and chastisers are brought in, to warn against all kind of deviant behaviour from the patterns imposed as the correct one.

Europe, june 2016

European commission members suggest payment to withhold migrants and refugees in camps "*closer to their home*" as they say to avoid dangerous travelling towards Europe. No alternatives, such as paying for save travelling and access to quality learning settings are mentioned.

Planet Earth today, 08/06/2016

Europe party

Europe #1

On the corner of most streets of Europe, televisions are set up to watch the European Football Championship.

Europe #2

Embassies sent mail to nationals living in other countries to invite them to watch football games in the official residence of the ambassador.

Europe #3

Some foreign born athletes are travelling round in Europe, to defend the colours of a country they didn't born in, but to where they were invited to migrate to while thousands of refugees remain prisoner at the European borders.

Rest of the world.

Europe, you said?

Planet Earth today 09/06/2016 and the next three weeks

Past and actual conflict zones...

Oostende, Belgium, june 2016

A world war I bomb is to be dismounted in the harbour.

All civil population in a radius of 500 m is being led away.

Aleppo, Syria, june 2016

An attack is going on with recent war material aiming de city centre.

All civil population living there is trapped in the conflict.

New York, USA and Geneva, Switzerland, 2011

United Nations Human Rights in conflict zones: "*there is a fundamental distinction between civilians and combatants, and between military objectives and civilian objects"; "International humanitarian law further imposes on States the obligations to respect its rules and to protect civilians and other protected persons and property"*.

Planet Earth today, 10/06/2016

Village schools...

Portugal

For the last 5 years now children are concentrated in school clusters, where instruction is provided. Village schools are closed.

Children pass up to 3 hours in daily transport by bus from and to school.

Parents leave villages, when they can, and concentrate nearby the nearest cities, where schools are concentrated. Villages die.

Awerowoti Primary School, Dokolo, Uganda

Since the last decade and until today in the village school, children present their written stories, one to another. It is one of the results of an Aga Khan Foundation interaction with local authorities, bringing in learner-centred pedagogical approach. Clustering village schools permit broader practice sharing between teachers. During cluster meetings, teachers and children develop learning material together, to make science and mathematic lessons more interactive and attractive.

Cem soldos, Tomar, Portugal,

Today, a little village, one well organised grass root organisation of village people. Village school is kept open, parents ask for state school teachers interested in working with children of different

ages in the same classroom. Learner- and social environment centred activities are introduced.
Last year, there were two classrooms, this year there will be more.
And Kindergarten is raising the number of children.
Parents leave nearby city and install them in the village.

Planet Earth today, 11/06/2016

Unknown (hi)story...

Alqueva, Portugal

June 2015, a little village.

One of the villagers, Manuel, takes a group of 10-year old children and their teacher, studying in locus the nearby cork trees. He explains and show the different cuts made to peel the cork without wounding the tree. And he shares knowledge about plants and birds.

Nieuwpoort, Belgium

April 1972, a coast village.

One of the villagers, Jan, takes a group of 15-year old youngsters to the north-bank of the River IJzer, in his little boat. He explains the fishing art of soles and shrimps, by boat and by horse, at the North sea coast. And he shares knowledge about winds and sea currents.

Paris, France

1977, Capital of a European State.

One of the university professors, Michel, publishes in *Les Cahiers du Chemin* his reflections about the non-existing historical print of majority of people that lives and lived on the planet.

Since the invention of writing, Planet Earth today 13/06/2016

Inequalities… *circenses* but short on *panem*

Brussels, Belgium

June.

The UNO-general secretary Ban Ki Moon assists a soup distribution in a refugee centre in Brussels. He talks with some refugees about their situation, refers to one of them the day after he also will have a meeting with the prime minister of his state of origin, cause of his need become a refugee.

Gaza, Palestina

June.

Data reveal that 65% of the young people are unemployed and that poorness increased dramatically since the Israel blockade. In a few years, the population needing food assistance almost triplicated to around 200.000 individuals.

France, almost every where in the country

June.

In street interviews football fans give their predictions about the results of their teams in the European football contest.

Lots of *circenses* for some, just some *panem* for lots though…

… Planet Earth today 15/06/2016

Facing the unknown...

Oostende, Belgium

1938. She was 9 years old, sent at a safe distance from the Spanish Civil War. She found a shelter in my grandparent's house. The story I often heard was that, as she was Spanish, everybody assumed she understood french: "*Viens, nous allons manger un gâteau*", was the invitation. She panicked: *gato*? Did those people eat cats?
She wrought about her fears to her parents.

Lille, France

2016. She is an 9 years old refugee, lost her parents, both wounded during the long crossing. She found shelter in the circled refugee camp. She doesn't know what tomorrow will bring her.
And she has, at the moment, nobody to wright to.

Lisbon, Portugal

June 2016. She is 10 years old. She had a marvellous first school, where she could choose her projects, was involved in the class management, as all her colleagues. She is a little bit afraid, as she has to proceed to "the big school" and doesn't know exactly what shall happen. She visited the new school with her parents and is still a bit afraid, but feels her parents will know what she is talking about when talking about her new school, in September.

Children on Planet Earth until today, 16/06/2016

Mankind's universal religion

Jerusalem, Israel

2014. In his bestseller *Sapiens*, professor Yuval Noah Harari states one could assume mankind achieved an absolute universal religion: the belief that everything can be expressed as a value, which standard is today completely virtual. The absolute expression of the universal belief in a symbol.

France, Europe

June 2016. Media give general attention to another planetary religion: a series of football games. As golden gladiators, players are presented in rankings, whereby their monetary value is one of the important criteria.

Brussels, European Union

June 2016. Along with other NGO supporting refugees and migrants, the Portuguese "*médicos sem fronteiras*" refuses to accept European funds, in protest against the agreement European Commission made with Turkey, "buying in" the Turkish government to withhold refugees on Turkish territory.

The Values on Planet Earth today, 18/06/2016

Life...

Lisbon, Portugal

June.

She speaks with her friend about sun glasses. They visit different shops.

The main concern is about the certification of the effective UV-filters to protect their eyes.

Desert, Syria

May.

He had to run away from Iraq. He is safe in Europe now, as refugee. He had to be smuggled through the Syrian territory.

The main concern was not to talk, so nobody would understand he was Iraqi, to effectively protect his life.

Brussels, Belgium

June.

They manifest in the streets to demand stricter laws regarding cattle farming.

The main concern is to certificate stress free life for animals.

Aspects regarding life on Planet Earth today, 20/6/2016

when dialogue is transformed in dichotomy...

Brexit #1, United Kingdom

June 2016.

Cultivate ignorance has a price. Falsify arguments also.

Develop paternalist attitudes also.

Brexit #2, Europe

June.

Can we imagine leaders, who made themselves inaccessible to day-to-day reality, and technocrats, locking themselves up in their ivory towers, to gain consciousness? Are they willing to do so?

Brexit 3#, Beyond Europe

June.

In fields and slumps, struggling for survival goes on.

“Brexit, you said? No, I don’t know.”

Planet Earth, today 24/06/2016

A matter of perspective

Planet from Space observing Planet

Thanks to artificial satellites, the little creatures that made them begin to understand the interaction between ocean streaming, volcanic activity, wind, one continent's dust and sand, another continent's rain forest, magnetic fields, atmosphere, ionosphere, star activity and life.

Space observed from Planet by Hubble Telescope

Thanks to living beings on the planet, who made the telescope, those beings can see similitudes and differences between this planet and other planets, the nearby star and other stars, the including galaxy and other galaxies.

Cities and Countries on observed Planet

Little creatures, in little amount of space, in an insignificant moment of time speak about "our" planet, "our" star, "our" galaxy. Meanwhile they are going around on the surface of the planet, tracing lines and marks. Some of them assume this lines and marks give them the right to insult and kill who lives on the other sight of the line, or even worse, who dare to cross it.

On planet Earth, until today, 27/06/2016

Pascal Paulus.

Retired primary school teacher in Belgium and Portugal with 25 years school- and community based work in Belgium and Portugal and former education Consultant for Education Departments, Foundations, Schools, National and International Educational Projects for 15 years.
Actually playing, reading with grandchildren willing to be a consulting grandfather

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